

MARICOPA COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MARCH 27, 2002

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- 1) The meeting was called to order at 1:10 P.M. by Supervisor Andy Kunasek.
- 2) Attendance roll call taken by Suzanne Gray. A quorum was not present at roll call. *The meeting proceeded with discussion items only until a quorum was present at 1:55.*

**Members Present**

Laurel Arndt  
James Burke  
Bruce Ellison  
Robert Jones  
Supervisor Andrew Kunasek  
Bill Miles for Carol Erwin  
Fred Pfeifer  
Pat Schneider for Bill Lanford  
Supervisor Don Stapley (arrived at 1:55 p.m.)

**Members Absent**

Jim Duncan  
Art Wirtz  
Felipe Zubia

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Tom Buick  
Joy Rich  
William Scalzo

**Ex-Officio Members Absent**

Mike Ellegood

- 3) Approval of the minutes from December 19, 2001.

Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Supervisor Stapley. ***Passed unanimously.***

- 4) Introduction of Commissioners Art Wirtz, District 2, and Robert Jones, Parks & Recreation Commission Vice-Chairman

Chairman Kunasek noted that Mr. Art Wirtz was unable to attend the meeting due to the death of his father. He introduced Mr. Robert Jones who represents District 4 and is the Vice-chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Jones provided information relating to his background and indicated that he was a professional Geologist and Civil Engineer.

- 5) Name the Trail Update – Commissioner Burke

Commissioner Burke provided information on the status of the Name the Trail campaign and specified that of the 200 submissions received, 142 were write-ins. Commissioner Burke worked with the County's PIO Office and Mr. Scalzo's staff to develop an on-line campaign for the naming of the trail. Information is posted on the City of Phoenix, Maricopa County Trails, Parks, Library, APS, SRP, and other web sites, in addition to being handed out to people when they enter the various County parks. Commissioner Burke explained that the campaign runs until mid-April and that tally information and a recommendation to name the trail should be available by the next Trails Commission meeting.

Mr. Scalzo added that APS has assisted considerably with printing costs for the project and that information about the program has appeared on radio and television stations.

Ms. Pat Schneider mentioned that she was extremely impressed with the pamphlet developed and the process, for the campaign, because everything was clear, simple, and welcoming for input.

In response to a question by Laurel Arndt, Mr. Scalzo stated that he would verify whether information about the program was posted on kiosks in the parks. He further stated that special marketing promotion options are available because the Board recently approved an agenda item relating to this

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issue. There was some discussion about offering park passes to those who have their submission selected as an incentive.

**6) Presentation of Public Meeting Results and Pilot Project Presentation-Reed Kempton, MCDOT Bicycle Multi/Modal Planner**

Mr. Kempton provided the Commission with a draft copy of the Corridor Study for the Maricopa County Regional Trails System. He highlighted every portion of the document, which included the definitions, design guidelines for the primary and secondary trails, project corridors publicized by segments one through eight, and various mapping detail. It was noted that the document was a draft and the Commission was encouraged to provide input before the next meeting. Mr. Kempton suggested that Commission members pay particular attention to the proposed goals and policies listed in the document because they are significant in the planning process.

Mr. Kempton reported an update concerning the CAP feasibility study and clarified that a consultant will be hired within days to begin conducting the study, which involves the Cities of Phoenix, Peoria, Scottsdale, Mesa, the Bureau of Reclamation, ADOT and MCDOT.

Mr. Scalzo indicated that a meeting was held with the City of Surprise Parks and Recreation Director, Planning Officials, and a Council Member to discuss the trail linkage. Surprise is enthusiastic about entering into an IGA with the County to work toward the implementation of the system, which includes potential funding for restroom and support facilities. He further indicated that he would work with County Counsel to devise such an agreement.

Mr. Kempton explained that public meetings were held in January to present the concept and in March to delineate the trail corridors. In February, a workshop was held and information from all of the meetings were incorporated into the document. Chairman Kunasek noted that he and Supervisor Willson attended the most recent public meeting and added that it was very informative. He thanked Mr. Kempton for the work completed so far and noted that he has given the Commission concrete ideas to begin working on the project.

Commissioner Arndt expressed concern for the sensitive, unprotected areas that relate to goal 5.

Commissioner Ellison pointed out the need for the bridge being constructed across the Agua Fria River being built so that it connects with the trails system.

Mr. Buick clarified that when a trail crosses a right-of-way, MCDOT will provide amenities associated with the trail system, which includes crossings for viable users in the trails corridor.

Mr. Kempton re-emphasized that the document presented was a draft and asked the Commission to look closely at the goals and policies and provide input before the next Commission meeting so that a final document could be presented for action.

**7) Next Phase of Trail Identification – Chairman Stapley**

Mr. Dennis Holcomb identified four major segments of the components to the trail system, in priority order, as the following:

- 1) White Tank Mountain Regional Park – Lake Pleasant Regional Park – Cave Creek Recreation Area
- 2) Cave Creek Recreation Area - McDowell Mountain Regional Park – Usery Mountain Recreation Area – San Tan Mountains Regional Park
- 3) San Tan Mountains Regional Park – Estrella Mountain Regional Park
- 4) Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Buckeye Hills Recreation Area – White Tank Mountain Regional Park

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He provided an outline of eight steps to be taken to fully implement the trail system, which include the following:

- 1) Corridor Study – defines overall feasibility of trail corridor segments
- 2) Implementation Plan – strategy on how to pursue implementation of the components for each segment
- 3) Adoption of Corridor Study & Implementation Study – recommendation to BOS by Trail Commission; BOS adoption
- 4) Trail Segment Master Plan – prototype is similar to the West Valley Trails Master Plan document -includes trail alignment, trail standards and guides, and preliminary cost estimate. Depending on the implementation strategy, a trail master plan would be developed by a private developer, the county, others.
- 5) Funding & Partnering Agreements
- 6) Pre-Design & Design
- 7) Construction
- 8) O&M & Policing

Mr. Holcomb indicated approximate timelines for each trail segment/components and the implementation schedule will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Arndt, Mr. Scalzo stated that the Tonto National Forest should be involved in connecting the trail system specifically in the area of Cave Creek to McDowell.

Supervisor Stapley indicated that Commissioner Wirtz is the supervisor for the Tonto National Forest in the Mesa Region and will be a great asset to the trail system planning process.

Supervisor Stapley suggested staff begin work on the grant application process with local charities or non-profit foundations to help get funding from national agencies. He mentioned that staff should research what the U.S. Olympic requirements are to apply for funding from their charitable trust.

Mr. Buick stated that MCDOT will develop a work program for the Commission to consider for completing the complete regional trail plan. He pointed out that MCDOT led this pilot effort to establish a model for how the rest of the trail system could be planned. The work program will identify staffing needs, project times lines and budgetary requirements. The work program will also provide the Commission with other short-term needs that should be considered as further implementation is considered. Mr. Scalzo noted that Parks and Recreation staff, Stacy Niles, and the National Park Service are working simultaneously in pursuing grant opportunities and establishing a charitable trust to receive money for the project.

Commissioner Pfeifer recommended that the trail plan for the pilot portion be nominated to the State Trails System. The submittal deadline for nominations is August 1, 2002.

**8) Rio Verde System of Road Right-of-Way Trails – Tim Oliver, Parks & Recreation Department Planner**

Mr. Oliver referred to a letter sent from Supervisor Stapley's office in response to an inquiry where the Rio Verde Horseman's Association was interested in using MCDOT right-of-ways to establish trail

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corridors in the area. He noted that the letter outlined a process of how MCDOT ROW might be used as potential trail corridors and what are the steps that must be met before trails are established within the ROW.

The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association provided staff with a list of corridors to research. Staff determined that the referenced right-of-ways were dedicated to the County, not to MCDOT, therefore these right-of-ways could not be brought into the current trail system. However, the right-of-ways have been dedicated as public easements, which means public access and public utilities are allowed to go up and down the road. Mr. Oliver suggested that the next corridor study would be an appropriate time to evaluate a corridor that could be part of the regional trails plan that connects McDowell Park and trails in the Tonto National Forest to Cave Creek Recreation Area.

Mr. Terry Eckhardt with the Division of County Counsel clarified that the right-of-ways are actually dedicated to the public and are Not County right-of-ways, which means they are not in our jurisdiction.

**9) Call to the Commission**

None

**10) Call to the Public**

None

**11) Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.